

# Oregon awaits the freeze

Nuclear initiative win starts a long campaign

By Michele Matassa  
Of the Emerald

Although most Oregonians dread combatting snow, ice and winter temperatures, they are looking forward to a freeze.

In fact, 61.5 percent of voting Oregonians expressed support for an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to "immediately halt the testing, production, and further deployment of all nuclear weapons, missiles, and delivery systems in a way that can be checked and verified by both sides."

Ballot Measure 5 was the only statewide ballot measure to pass Tuesday. The measure requires Gov. Vic Atiyeh to write Pres. Reagan on behalf of Oregonians urging Reagan to propose a bilateral nuclear weapons freeze.

What made the measure's unique success possible?

According to Doug Barber, co-coordinator of the Oregon Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, it was grassroots campaigning.

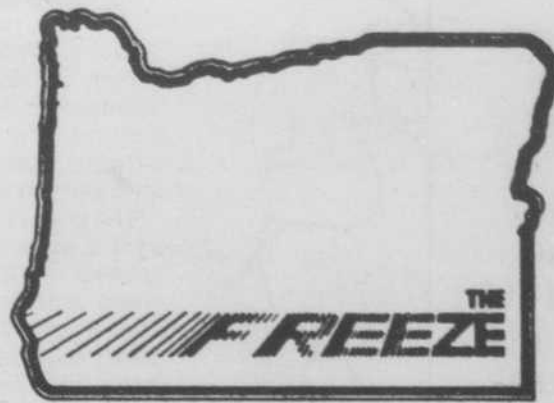
Barber says the campaign organization

**Areas 'that overwhelmingly voted for the freeze also overwhelmingly voted for Reagan'**

used only four paid staff members (two in Eugene and two in Portland), recruiting the rest of their help on a volunteer basis. Churches and environmental organizations also added campaign workers, he says.

This grassroots strategy was used with success nationwide, except in California, despite a bigger budget which allowed more sophisticated campaigning, Barber says.

Freeze initiatives were passed in eight out of nine states and 28 out of 30 cities and counties nationwide, with Massachusetts and



New Jersey passing their proposals with 74 and 76 percent approval respectively. Freeze measures also failed in two Arkansas counties.

Although Barber admits it's nice to relax after an intense campaign, he sees the road ahead filled with more goals and efforts.

"We won the initiatives, but we didn't get the freeze," says Barber. "The freeze is the goal. The initiatives were just one step in the process."

The next step is for the national group to focus on Congress, pushing to put freeze resolutions before both houses, Barber says.

Although Barber criticizes Reagan's defense policies, he doesn't see support for the freeze as a rejection of Reagan.

The areas "that overwhelmingly voted for the freeze also overwhelmingly voted for Ronald Reagan" in 1980, he says.

Barber adds that the freeze is not a partisan political issue, and uses Oregon to support his argument.

Democratic Reps. Jim Weaver, Les AuCoin and Ron Wyden and Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield are strong freeze supporters.

Barber commends the Oregon legislators for their work on the issue and says they "certainly carry weight." He says "particularly Mark Hatfield in the Senate."

Barber is optimistic that an agreement might be reached if this power and support results in a proposal to the Soviet Union.

Such an agreement would require "some extremely tough negotiation," but "it's becoming increasingly clear to the Soviet Union that a freeze is in their best interest as well as in the United States' best interest," he says.

This attitude is what makes agreements "positive and possible," Barber says.

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